

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTING SERVICES

Selection # as assigned by e-Tool: RG-T3704-P001

Selection Method: Competitive

Country: Regional

Sector: Social Protection and Health

Funding – TC #: RG-T3704

Project #: ATN/KP-18135-RG

TC name: Innovative COVID-19 Response Using ICT Tools: Knowledge sharing between LAC and Korea in Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Description of Services: The consulting firm will analyze digital tools that have proven to be effective in the fight of pandemics including COVID 19. It will also review the level of readiness of countries in the region and then will develop a typology of systems that need to be in place to be ready for a pandemic. The typology will include a readiness assessment tool for countries that will help them in different levels, including a theoretical discussion for example to avoid the use of certain technologies if the country is not ready to use them.

Link to TC document:<https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3704>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is executing the above-mentioned operation. For this operation, the IDB intends to contract consulting services described in this Request for Expressions of Interest. Expressions of interest must be delivered using the IDB Portal for Bank Executed Operations (<http://beo-procurement.iadb.org/home>) by: **October 5th, 5:00 P.M. (**Washington D.C. Time).

The consulting services (“the Services”) include conducting a study to develop a typology of digital response systems during pandemics for Latin American countries depending on their level of readiness. The firm will analyze digital tools that have proven to be effective in the fight of pandemics including COVID-19 and review the level of readiness of countries in the region by June 2021.

**Estimated execution period:** 9 months from the date of signing the contract.

**Estimated budget:** The available budget for this consultancy is US$150,000.

**Only the first seven pages of the Expressions of Interest received will be taken into account for the next stages.**

Eligible consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: [Policy for the Selection and Contracting of Consulting firms for Bank-executed Operational Work](http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?DOCNUM=38988574) - GN-2765-1. All eligible consulting firms, as defined in the Policy may express an interest. If the Consulting Firm is presented in a Consortium, it will designate one of them as a representative, and the latter will be responsible for the communications, the registration in the portal and for submitting the corresponding documents.

The IDB now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described below in the draft summary of the intended Terms of Reference for the assignment. Interested consulting firms must provide information establishing that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Eligible consulting firms may associate in a form of a Joint Venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. Such association or Joint Venture shall appoint one of the firms as the representative.

Interested eligible consulting firms may obtain further information during office hours, 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM, (Washington D.C. Time) by sending an email to: Luis Tejerina, [luist@iadb.org](mailto:luist@iadb.org) and Mihwa Park, mihwap@iadb.org.

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Attached: Draft Summary of Terms of Reference COVID-19 Digital Response Systems

RG-T3704-P001

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## COVID-19 Digital Response Systems

Regional

RG-T3704

Innovative COVID-19 Response Using ICT Tools: Knowledge Sharing Between LAC and Korea in Public Health Emergency Preparedness

<https://www.iadb.org/en/project/RG-T3704>

1. **Background and Justification**
   1. When COVID 19 hit the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean few countries were ready with information systems in place to react and produce the necessary data to help authorities face the crisis. Countries like Uruguay, Argentina have developed chatbots to answer questions and provide information on COVID-19 to citizens. Colombia launched an informative platform to follow up with the evolution of COVID-19 in the country and launched an app to track COVID-19. Peru and Costa Rica developed dashboards and analytics to monitor the spread of the disease. However, use of digital tools in the LAC region in general was limited due to lack of infrastructure, governance structures for a scenario like this one and policies to back the use of digital technologies during pandemics. Furthermore, responses from various countries were heterogeneous and, in some cases, not led by the Ministries of health. Digital solutions were imported from other regions and implemented in a rush to respond to the challenge without vetting their applicability in the region or strategic planning regarding the role they played in the overall health system response to the pandemic.
   2. Digital health interventions are commonly used tools to improve efficiency and quality of health care (Nelson et al. 2019) and they are also proven to be effective during public health emergencies (Allen at al. 2019). According to a recent IDB’s publication, in times of public health emergencies, stronger information systems are important, and digital tools were used to serve as emergency response systems, client communication systems, public health and disease surveillance systems and so on. The report also emphasized the importance of non-digital factors such as institutional capacity, and legal framework to maximize the effectiveness of the digital tools in times of public health emergencies (Park et al. 2020)
   3. South Korea is one of the countries that had made the relevant investments and reacted quickly to manage the crisis using data and technology. Korea regularly suffers contingencies that can have serious public health consequences from yearly typhoon to infectious disease outbreaks, which led to development of public health emergency preparedness and response capacity and building resilience (OECD, 2020) Especially against the infectious disease outbreak the country system after MERS outbreak in 2015. MERS outbreak gave important lessons to Korea as gaps of the systems were discovered, which later the government successfully filled institutional, legal frameworks to enhance the country’s emergency preparedness.
   4. Considering risks for public health, preparedness for public health emergencies became a key policy priority in Korea. The first steps entailed reflection in its legal and institutional framework related to the important risks for pandemic outbreaks and disasters. Currently, Kkorea’s legal framework for public health emergencies is based on an all-hazard approach. The Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety of 2015 clarifies the responsibilities of national to local governments all across the risk management cycle, from prevention, preparedness to response and recovery. The Act also provide instructions to all levels of government to establish both a Safety Management Committee for Policy planning and implementation and a Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarter for operational response, as well as the development of Safety management Plans in all local governments, corresponding with the national Master Plan for Safety management developed every five years (OECD, 2020).
2. **Objectives**
   1. The objective of the study is to develop a typology of digital response systems during pandemics for Latin American counties depending on their level of readiness.
3. **Scope of Services**
   1. The consulting firm will analyze digital tools that have proven to be effective in the fight of pandemics including COVID 19. It will also review the level of readiness of countries in the region and then will develop a typology of systems that need to be in place to be ready for a pandemic.
   2. The typology will include a readiness assessment tool for countries that will help place them in different levels. Depending on the level a country is in the consultancy will recommend a series of digital tools to be in place to face pandemics.
   3. This should include a theoretical discussion for example to avoid the use of certain technologies if the country is not ready to use them (digital contact tracing for example)
4. **Key Activities**

The selected firm will:

* 1. Review digital tools that have proven to be useful in pandemics
  2. Review the level of readiness of countries in the region at a high level (availability of information systems for example) by reviewing existing documentation and interviews with key personnel.
  3. Develop a typology of countries in the region according to their enabling actors in place to use digital tools to face pandemics.
  4. Develop a report including data for all Bank member countries with available information. A classification based on the tool developed under 4.3 and recommendations for digital tools to be used in each case.
  5. Develop a learning material on digital systems for response against pandemics in the format used for the digital materials for the IDB. <https://socialdigital.iadb.org/en/resources/health/research-publications/838>

1. **Expected Outcome and Deliverables**
   1. Product 1: Workplan and proposed methodology
   2. Product 2: Report on the level of readiness of countries in the region
   3. Product 3: Proposed classification and digital tools to be used in each case
   4. Product 4: Final report including material collected under 4.2 and 4.3
   5. Product 5: Learning material, video, and presentation of conclusions
2. **Project Schedule and Milestones**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| Product 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Product 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Product 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Product 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Product 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Reporting Requirements**
   1. The firm will be required to send progress reports every 15 days with progress of products and plans for the remainder of the project.
2. **Acceptance Criteria**
   1. Responsible person: Luis Tejerina, Sector lead specialist of Economics in Social Protection and Health Division
3. **Other Requirements**
   1. More than 5 years of expertise in digital health
   2. The team should include specialists in epidemiology and the use of digital tools for health
   3. Experience in working on digital health in at least 3 countries in the region
4. **Supervision and Reporting**
   1. Responsible persons: Luis Tejerina, Sector lead specialist of Economics in Social Protection and Health Division/ Social Sector, will accept the products.
5. **Schedule of Payments**
   1. Payment terms will be based on project milestones or deliverables. The Bank does not expect to make advance payments under consulting contracts unless a significant amount of travel is required. The Bank wishes to receive the most competitive cost proposal for the services described herein.
   2. The IDB Official Exchange Rate indicated in the RFP will be applied for necessary conversions of local currency payments.

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| **Payment Schedule** | |
| **Deliverable** | **%** |
| Product 1 | 15 |
| Product 2 | 15 |
| Product 3 | 30 |
| Product 4 | 20 |
| Product 5 | 20 |
| **TOTAL** | 100% |